



Jones, E. T. Survey of smuggling in Bristol, 15 May 1565

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Evan T. Jones (ed.), 'Survey of smuggling in Bristol, 15 May 1565' (University of Bristol, ROSE, 2011)¹

In 1565 the Exchequer issued a series of commissions to survey the ports of the country.² At about the same time Bristol's mayor, Anthony Standbank, received a subsidiary commission to ascertain the nature and extent of smuggling and other illegal practices in the port of Bristol. As the translation of commission's brief makes clear, the intention was that it should focus on the illicit export of 'prohibited' wares from the greater port, which included the Bristol Avon and the Gloucestershire reaches of the River Severn. In the event, the commissioners chose to concentrate on the illicit import of wine and only considered matters in the City of Bristol itself.

[rot. 351 and dorse]³

Latin translation of the commission

Memorandum that, by the decision of the Barons, letters patent of the present Queen were issued under the seal of the Exchequer this term in these words: Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., to our beloved and faithful Anthony Stanbanck mayor of the city of Bristol,⁴ Walter Dennys knight,⁵ George Norton knight,⁶ and our beloved Richard Barkley esquire⁷ and Robert Brayne esquire,⁸ greetings. Know that we, fully confident in your faithfulness and circumspection, assign you, five, four, or at the least three, to enquire, as well within liberties as without,⁹ as well by the oaths of

¹ The National Archives: Public Record Office [TNA:PRO] E159/350 *Recorda* Hil. rot. 351 r, d, et seq. I would like to thank Margaret Condon (University of Bristol) for her considerable assistance on the transcription / translation of this document. The following conventions were employed when transcribing the certificate: the line spacing, spelling, capitalization, underlining, deletions, emphasis (in bold) and punctuation follow the manuscript; reconstructions of suspensions are in italics. Squared brackets indicate editorial additions.

² Evan T. Jones (ed.), 'Survey of the Port of Bristol, 1565', (University of Bristol, ROSE, 2011) <<http://hdl.handle.net/1983/1707>> 14 Feb. 2010.

³ Headed 'Adhuc Communia de termino sancti Hillarii anno septimo Regine Elizabeth. Adhuc Recorda': Still [i.e. continuing] the Common Matters of Hilary term in the seventh year of Queen Elizabeth. Still the Recorda.' In the margin is written 'Gloucestrie Civitas Bristoll': Gloucester [and] City of Bristol'. The short text summary that usually appears below the county names is left blank, although a space has been indicated for it.

⁴ Anthony Standbank, mayor of Bristol, 1564/5. Standbank was vintner and a former customs officer in the city: J. Vanes (ed.), *The Ledger of John Smythe, 1538-1550* (Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, JP19, 1974), fo. 206.

⁵ Sir Walter Denys held the manor of Dyrham, nine miles east of Bristol, as well as property in Bristol. He was Sheriff of Gloucestershire seven times from the 1530s-50s and represented the county in Parliament: S. T. Bindoff (ed.), *House of Commons, 1509-1558*, II (London, 1982), pp. 36-7. While appointed to this commission, he did not in fact play an active part in it, as the certificate shows.

⁶ Sir George Norton was a local gentleman, with strong Bristol connections, who had been made a freeman of the city in 1560: M. Stanford (ed.), *The Ordinances of Bristol, 1506-1598* (Bristol Record Society, XLI, 1990), p. 28.

⁷ Richard Berkeley was a Justice of the Peace in Gloucestershire who lived at Stoke Gifford, three miles from Bristol: *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1563-66*, no. 121. Although he was later knighted he retained his strong Bristol connections and is, indeed, buried in the Lord Mayor's Chapel (d.1604) where his effigy can still be seen. As with Sir Walter Denys, while appointed to this commission, he did not play an active part in it, as the certificate shows. Berkeley was, however, active in the concurrent port survey, which after completion, was delivered into the Exchequer on 21 May 1565.

⁸ Sir Robert Brayne held the manors of Flaxley and Staunton in the Forest of Dean but was also the possessor of the former property of St James Priory in Bristol, which had been granted to Robert's father at the Dissolution: TNA:PRO, E133/1/181; *History of the County of Gloucester*, Vol. 5, (1996), pp. 143, 277.

⁹ 'within liberties as without' – i.e. they were given power to carry out their work within any 'liberties' that lay within Bristol or Gloucester but where the writ of the sheriffs of those counties did not run.

upright and lawful men of our county of Gloucester and our city of Bristol, as by depositions from witnesses whomsoever, and by all other reasonable ways, means and manners for our good that, according to your wise discretions, seem to you to be more expedient, concerning¹⁰ all and every ships, goods, commodities, and merchandises, laded or unladed by way of merchantry¹¹ without payment of customs and subsidies within any port, place, or creek within the said county and city or county of the city,¹² or seashore within the said county and city, or any part of the same, from the first day of January in the fifth year of our reign;¹³ and also of whatsoever sums of money and the amount,¹⁴ [and of] gold, silver, jewels, oxen, cattle, calves, cows, sheep, bullocks, horses, mares, and other such animals, and also of whatsoever wools, woollen cloths, wool fells, tanned leather, salted hides, calf skins, sheep skins called “pelts”,¹⁵ tallow, cheese, butter, and whatever kind of grain and victual and other things whatsoever that, against inhibitions and restraints, or against the form of any statute, act, ordinance or proclamation made,¹⁶ had, or ordained, have been, within the said time, transported and carried to foreign parts, or laded or shipped to be transported and carried from the county of Gloucester, the city and county of Bristol, or any part of them; and in what ships they are carried, and the owners of them; and further of all and singular wools, woollen cloth and wool fells placed, brought, shipped or loaded towards the same in creeks and suspect places upon the seashore within the said county and city for transporting to foreign parts; and also of whatsoever extortions, oppressions, concealments, and wilful perjuries are made or perpetrated by any of our officers or ministers or their deputies or other whomsoever within the said county and city within the said time, and the procurers of such transgressions, contempts, falsehoods and deceptions; and where and in what manner they are done or perpetrated; and also of persons whomsoever frequenting there [make] false measure and weight within the said time; and whether each and every customer, collector of customs and subsidies, controller, and searchers whomsoever in any port within the said city and county is little resident in the same period. Also of all and singular foreign goods, wares and merchandises, whether in any ship or any vessel, is laded or unladed within the said county and city within the time aforesaid at a place or time prohibited by a certain act at our parliament held in the first year of our reign limiting the time for discharge and laying on land of merchandise coming from overseas;¹⁷ and of all and singular other offences against the same act done and perpetrated within the said county and city within the time aforesaid. And also for whatsoever tuns, pipes, hogsheads, barrels, and firkins of herring being sold there in the aforesaid time not containing assize and measure according to the statutes made and provided, and the names of the sellers of them; and also of whatsoever wines and other liquors being sold ungauged within the said time, and the sellers of them; and by who or by whom, when, where and how, in what manner and what way the premises¹⁸ were perpetrated or done; and also of the quantity, quality and price of merchandise, commodities, jewels, leather, hides, wool, tallow, skins, animals, victuals, grain, ships carrying victuals and the apparel of the same and all other the premises, and of the names and additions of names of the

¹⁰ ‘de’ : taking the ablative but used here in a genitive sense : and therefore loosely translated.

¹¹ ‘causa mercandis’.

¹² Bristol had been made a county in its own right in 1373. The writ of the commission thus covered the whole of Gloucestershire and the whole of the city and county of Bristol.

¹³ 1 January 1563.

¹⁴ ‘aceciam de quibuscumque denariis summis in pecuniis numerat’.

¹⁵ ‘pellibus ovium vocat’ peltes’: the word ‘peltes’ is thus in English.

¹⁶ The export of all the goods mentioned was illegal, unless the merchant had bought a special licence from the Crown, under letters patent, to permit the export.

¹⁷ ‘An Acte lymiting the tymes for layeng on Lande Marchandise from beyonde the Seas, and touching Customes for Sweete Wynes’ (1559), *Statutes of the Realm*, IV, pp. 372-74.

¹⁸ ‘premises’ – i.e. the aforementioned.

owners of the same and others offending in the premises, and the full truth and certainty of all other articles and circumstances whatsoever concerning the premises. And thus we command you that at certain days and places you, five, four or three of you at the least appointed to this diligently make inquisitions upon the premises, and these clearly and openly made and taken, return your proceedings under your seals, or those of five, four or three of you, and the seals of those by whom it is done, as quickly as you can, and by the latest one month after Easter,¹⁹ without delay, together with these our letters patent. We order also our sheriffs, as well of our said county of Gloucester as of our said city of Bristol

[*rot. 351 dorse*]²⁰

that, at the days and places that you, five, four, or three of you, make known to them, they are to cause to be present sufficient²¹ true and lawful men of their bailiwick by whom the truth of the thing of and in the premises can best be made known and enquired. Thus we give you, five, four or three of you, by these presents,²² full power and authority to summon and procure appearance before you, five, four, or three of you, at whatsoever time and place you, five, four or three of you assign according to your sage discretions of whatever persons to you seem most suitable to have for your better information about the execution of the premises, or for witness and discovery of the truth in the same premises; and having examined them upon and in the premises on their oaths, and recorded the examinations on parchment, send these to the barons of the Exchequer, together with the said inquisition, under the seals of five, four, or three of you. And therefore we command you that you will employ, or that five, four or three of you shall have employed, your diligence in these matters so that nothing further should remain to be done concerning our order. We give also to each and every our lieges firmly in command by these presents that they are to be intendant and obedient to you, five, four or three of you, as is fitting, for the execution of the same premises. In witness of these things we have caused our letters patent to be made. Witness Edward Saunders, knight,²³ at Westminster, on the twelfth day of February in the seventh year of our reign;²⁴ by the memoranda roll of Hilary²⁵ of the same year seven, 'Commissions and Letters Patent', rotulet [*blank*], and by the Treasurer and Barons. Saunders.

And after, to wit, on the fifteenth day of May this seventh year Anthony Standbank, then mayor of the said city, George Norton, knight, and Robert Brayne, esquire, sent here the said letters patent, together with a certain certificate taken by virtue of the said letters patent, annexed to the same letters patent, which are among the Inquisitions and extents²⁶ of this seventh year. The tenor of which certificate follows in these words.

[*see below*]

¹⁹ That is, by 21 May: Easter 1565 was on 22 April.

²⁰ Headed '*Adhuc de tenore litterarum patencium infrascriptum*': Still of the tenor of the letters patent underwritten.

²¹ '*tot et tales*'.

²² '*presents*' – i.e. the present document.

²³ Sir Edward Saunders, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, 1559-1576.

²⁴ 12 February 1565.

²⁵ Hilary Term – i.e. the legal term between Christmas and Easter.

²⁶ '*Inquisiciones et extentas*' is written over an erasure. The file series of Inquisitions and Extents is now incorporated in the disordered and largely unsorted record class TNA:PRO, E143, with significant strays in E178.

[rot. 351 dorse, contd.]

The Certyfycat of Anthony Stanbanck maior of the Citie of Bristoll Syr George Norton knighte and Roberte Brayne esquier Commissioners appoynted by the quenes highnes Commyssyon to them and others directed and to this present Certificat annexed ~ ~ comprehendinge the effecte and somme of the execucion of the same ~ ~ Comyssyon accordinge to the tenore and purporte²⁷ of the same as well at ~ their metinge and Assemblie at the Citie of Bristowe aforesaide the thirde daie of Apryll in the Seventhe yere of the reigne of oure Sovereigne lady Elizabeth²⁸ by the grace of god of Englande Fraunce and Irelande quene defendoure of the faith &c. As also at the same Citie at diverse other tymes after. **By Vertue** of which Commyssyon wee the abovenamed ~ Comyssoners have executed and used all waies and meanes we can or maye for the tryeing oute²⁹ of all offences trespases transgressions and all other thinges mencioned and expressed in the same Commyssyon videlicet³⁰ as well by vyewe of the Customers and Comptrollers bookes³¹ examinacions of theym and their Clarkes,³² Waighters³³ and Searchers³⁴ ~ deposycions³⁵ of wytnesses vewing of Charter parties,³⁶ the portages³⁷ of shippes and vessells arryvinge in that porte, Inquisycions, veredictes³⁸ of juries sworne, as also by other devyses and meanes, In the dewe consyderacion of all which premysses and of the cyrcumstaunces thereof we fynde that sithens³⁹ the xxth daie of November laste paste⁴⁰ there have arryved in the porte of Brystoll eightene shippes and barkes oute of the domynion of Fraunce laden fully with wyne of the groweynge there⁴¹ (as muche as we can understande) and weare dischardged in the saide porte of the same wyne, which eightene shippes and barkes be of the portage or burthen of nyne hundred fyftie and eighte ~ tonnes⁴² as particulerlie appereth underwritten, which portage was

²⁷ 'tenore and purporte': tenor and purport.

²⁸ 3 April 1565.

²⁹ 'tryeing oute': trying out – i.e. investigating / examining.

³⁰ 'Videlicit': that is to say.

³¹ The customer and controller were the two chief customs officers in a port. The customer (also known as the collector) determined the duties paid, collected the revenue and recorded the entries in his book. The controller was meant to keep an independent record of what was collected in his own book, as a check against possible frauds committed by the customer.

³² 'Clarkes': clerks. All the chief officers of a major port needed to employ deputies and clerks, out of their own pockets, to conduct their business.

³³ The four tide-waiters of Bristol were responsible for supervising the movement of goods between the customs house and the anchorage near Avonmouth called the 'Hungroad', four miles downriver from the city.

³⁴ The customs searcher was the officer responsible for checking the merchants' declarations against what was actually on a ship and, more generally, preventing the illicit lading or unlading of goods.

³⁵ 'deposycions': depositions.

³⁶ 'Charter parties': freighting contracts.

³⁷ 'portages' – i.e. the carrying capacity of a ship in 'tons burden', this being the number of tuns of Bordeaux wine a vessel could carry in its hold.

³⁸ 'veredictes': verdicts.

³⁹ 'sithens': sithence – i.e. since.

⁴⁰ 20 November 1564.

⁴¹ That the wine was all believed to be French wine was significant for customs purposes, since only French wine was subject to the impost of 53s. 4d. per tun.

⁴² 'nyne hundred fyftie and eighte tonnes': 958 tons.

accompted unto us by the Waighers and Searchers abovesaide ~
 uppon their othes⁴³ And notwithstandinge there appere in the Controllers
 booke to be entered but iii^Clxxxxviiij tonnes⁴⁴ sythins that tyme and in
 the Customers booke of the inwarde entries iii^Cxiiij tonnes pipe
 hoggeshedd,⁴⁵ so that there wantethe of the saide ix^Clviiij tonnes
 fyve hundred threscore tonnes,⁴⁶ by the which it appereth that the quenes
 highnes is not aunswered of the ymposte of the said v^Clx tonnes⁴⁷
 so wantinge for the whiche is dewe and yet unpaide – M^{liii}j^Ciii^{xx}xiiij^{li}
 vjs viijd⁴⁸ And of her auncyent Custume and duties being iij^s

[new membrane, unnumbered]⁴⁹

the tonne ~ lxxxiiiij^{li50} besides the prisage⁵¹ of the same wyne so wantinge
And also wee fynde that sithens the feaste of S^t Michael tharchaungell
 laste paste⁵² there also Arryved in this porte of Bristoll diverse other vessells
 and shippes laden with oyles yron Allam Salte frute⁵³ and other merchaundizes
 beinge in the whole of the portage or burthen of MDlxiiij tonnes⁵⁴ And in the
 Customers and Comptrollers bookes of inwarde entries be entred but
 Miiii^{xx} and xij tonnes⁵⁵ of the same merchaundizes so that by conferringe the
 Custume aunswered to the quenes *majestie* which that of righte shoulde have
 bene aunswered yf the entry had bene accordinge to the portage of the same
 shippes and vessels, her *majestie* is also unaunswered of lxxix^{li} x^s.⁵⁶ So ~
 that there wante of thymposte custume and subsedie of the wyne and ~
 other merchaundizes abovesaide (which is unaunswered and yet oweinge ~
 MDClvj^{li} xvj^s. viij^d.⁵⁷ **And furthermore** we fynde that dyverse ~ ~
 merchaundizes the Custume and Subsedie whereof being smally rated
 be entred untruly in the place of merchaundizes of greate rates to the greate
 defraudinge of her highnes/⁵⁸ And that neither owner nor Purser of any
 shippe or other vessell doe signyfie in the Custume howse uppon thentrie
 of the same marchandizes the names of the merchauntes of the same

⁴³ 'othes': oaths.

⁴⁴ 'iii^Clxxxxviiij tonnes': 398 tons.

⁴⁵ 'iii^Cxiiij tonnes pipe hoggeshedd': 413.75 tons.

⁴⁶ 'fyve hundred threscore tonnes': 560 tons. In other words it is stated that because the total tonnage of the eighteen ships had been 958 tons and they only declared 398 tons of wine, this indicated that 560 tons was 'wanting' – i.e. had not been declared.

⁴⁷ 'v^Clx tonnes': 560 tons.

⁴⁸ 'M^{liii}j^Ciii^{xx}xiiij^{li} vjs viijd': £1,493 6s. 8d. Since 1558, French wine had been subject to an 'impost' of 53s. 4d. per tun, which is the basis for this figure.

⁴⁹ Headed 'Adhuc de tenore *litterarum patencium* et *certificacionem* incipiente in ventre rotuli': Still of the tenor of the letters patent and certificate beginning in the front of rotulet (-). The rotulet number has not been entered.

⁵⁰ Wine had long paid a duty called 'tonnage' of 3s. per tun – hence the assertion that the duty payable on the missing wine amounted to £84.

⁵¹ 'prisage': the Crown's right to receive, by way of purveyance, one tun of wine from any ship carrying more than ten tuns of English-owned wine and two tuns from any ship carrying more than twenty tuns.

⁵² 'S^t Michael tharchaungell laste paste' – i.e. Michaelmas (29 Sept.) 1564.

⁵³ 'oyles yron Allam Salte frute': [olive] oil, iron, alum, salt, fruit.

⁵⁴ 'MDlxiiij tonnes': 1,563 tons.

⁵⁵ 'Miiii^{xx} and xij tonnes': 1,092 tons.

⁵⁶ 'lxxix^{li} x^s': £79 10s.

⁵⁷ 'MDClvj^{li} xvj^s. viij^d': £1,656 16s. 8d.

⁵⁸ In other words, goods that attracted high duties were being declared as goods subject to lower duties.

accordinge to the statute in that behaulfe *provided*,⁵⁹ but that the same merchaundizes be entred by the *merchauntes* or their *servauntes* withoute any othe⁶⁰ exhibited to the enters of the same by the ~ Customers Controller their Clarkes or deputies / And as unto other Arryvalles of Shippes and barkes and of the quantitie and ~ ~ qualities of the *merchaundizes* of the same dischardged in this porte or any other place belongynge to the same before the saide feaste of Saincte michael tharchaungell or of any concealmente trespase or transgression commytted or done in or aboute the same before that tyme we can have no due intelligence thereof, for that the Customers and Comptroller affirme uppon their *personall* aunswers that they have geven upp their Accomptes and bookes uppon their laste Accompte,⁶¹ And that they have no copies of the same bookes in their possessions / **And** moreover we understande that the Clarkes of the Customers and Comptroller of this porte of ~ ~ Bristoll do usually exacte and take for Cockettes⁶² and Certificates xxd or ijs a pece contrarie to the aunciente ordre of that howse⁶³ / **And** wee also fynde variaunce betwene the Customers booke inwarde and the Comptrollers booke for that oute of a shippe called the Katherine of Conquett was entred in the Customers booke xv tonnes pipe hogeshead of Frenche wyne the vijth daie of January laste / And uppon oure viewe of the Controllers booke whiche was the thirde of Apryll above written there was no wyne nor other *merchaundizes* of the same shippe entered⁶⁴ / And yet one Richarde Serche a waighter beinge sworne confessed before us xvj tonnes to be landed and dischardged oute of the same shippe / **And overmore** we fynde that all the officers of the Custumehowse of this porte be resident uppon their offices theare savinge John Younge esquier one of the Customers there who hathe his deputie one Thomas Warren which John Younge upon his *personall* Aunswer saithe that he hath a dispensacion from the quenes highnes for his nonresidence upon the same office / **And fynally** we saie that as unto all other ~ ~ offences disorders trespases and transgressions menciyoned and expressed in the saide *commyssion* commytted or *perpetrated* within the porte of ~ ~ Bristoll or Countie of the same sithens the firste daye of Januarie in the fyvethe yere of the reigne⁶⁵ of the quenes *majestie* that nowe is we can have no advertysemente therof by any meanes or waies / **And** as unto any thinge inquirable in the Countie of Gloucester by force of this *Commyssion*

⁵⁹ *Statutes of the Realm*, IV, pp. 372-4.

⁶⁰ 'withoute any othe': without any oath. Article IV of the Act stated those entering goods from inbound vessels could be required to do so 'upon his or theyr othe yf nede so requyer'.

⁶¹ Customers and controllers were required to submit their books to the Exchequer each year at Michaelmas. The commissioners thus reported that they had been unable to investigate any possible illicit dealings prior to that time, since the customers and controllers had told them that they no longer had their old books.

⁶² 'Cockettes': cockets. These were customs certificates issued to merchants when they declared a consignment of imported or exported goods at the customs. Cockets were also necessary, however, if a merchant wished to ship prohibited wares (e.g. grain or leather) coastwise.

⁶³ It is thus suggested that the clerks to the customer and controller were demanding 20d. or 2s. to issue cockets and that this was more than the ancient practice.

⁶⁴ Both the customer and the controller kept what was meant to be an independent record of goods entered in the customs house. A comparison between the two sets of books had revealed that 15.75 tons of wine entered in the customer's book had not been entered in the controller's. On the other hand, this would not be evidence of fraud, since it was the customer who collected the dues and his book *had* recorded this consignment.

⁶⁵ 1 January 1563.

we coude not execute the same for the greate busynes we have had in
and aboute the *premysses* inquirable in the porte and Countie of
Bristoll **The names** of the shippes barkes and vessells ~ ~

[*dorse*]⁶⁶

Arryvinge at the abovesaide porte of Bristoll sithins the above ~
mencyoned twentieth daie of November laden with Frenche wyne
with the names of the owners and doers in and aboute the same
wyne and of the quantitie of their severall portages and burthens /
The **Roberte** of Plymmouthe of the portage of xxx^{tie} tonnes boughte by
Domynyck Chester of Bristoll *merchaunte*, The **Starre** of Bristoll
portage xl tonnes boughte by the same Domynyck and Willyam
Gyttons of Brystoll. The **Marye** of Conquett portage l^{tie} tonnes ~
owner John Agowthe Alien. The **Mystres** of Conquett portage xxv
tonnes bought by John Atkyns of Brystoll. The **John** de Harneys
portage xl tonnes boughte by William Pepwall of Bristoll. The
Harte of Brystoll portage lxx tonnes *merchauntes* George Higgins
William Gyttons and others of Bristoll / The **Prymerose** of ~ ~
Brystoll portage lxxx tonnes, *merchauntes* Thomas Aldworth, John
Suche, Roberte Smythe and others of Brystoll/ The **Mary** ~
Hollond portage lxxxx tonnes *merchauntes* Robert Kytchen, John
Robertes draper and others of Bristoll/ The **Unycorne** of Bristoll
portage xxx tonnes, *merchauntes* John Atkyns, Leonarde Sompter and
others of Bristoll./ The **Cleydon** of Hodiarme portage l^{tie} tonnes
Fortick de Caske Alyen *merchaunte*/ The **Mighell** of Brystoll
portage xl tonnes /Thomas Kelke and Robert Hawgton *merchauntes*
of Bristoll / The **George** of Padstowe portage xl tonnes ~ ~
merchauntes Wylliam Perffaye, John Langley and others of Brystoll
The **Grace** of god of Brystoll portage Cijj tonnes *merchauntes*
George Higgins, Roberte Kytchin, Robert Smythe and others of Bristoll
The **Clement** of Tintarne portage iij tonnes *merchauntes* Domynyck
Chester, The **Katheryne** of Conquett portage xxiiij tonnes *merchaunte*
John Bradshawe of Brystoll / The **George** of Absomme portage ~
lvijj tonnes owner and *merchaunte* Richard Sturbridge of Apsame / ~
The **Mawdelyn** of Penmarke portage l tonnes owner John Calve
Alien/ The **Mawdelen** of Feckham portage l tonnes, *merchaunte*
Lawrence Vyne of Brystoll/ The **Prymrose** of Brystoll in her
seconde vyage portage lxxx tonnes *merchauntes* Thomas Aldworth
Robert Smythe and others of Brystoll / Shippes ~ xvijj, bote j. ~
portage DCCCClvijj tonnes⁶⁷ / Wyne entered in the Custumehowse
CCCLxxxxvijj tonnes⁶⁸ as appereth by the Comptrollers booke So that
the portage surmountheth the entrie in the Custumehowse Dlx tonnes⁶⁹ /
Deposicions of wytnesses taken at Bristoll before us ~

⁶⁶ Headed '*Adhuc de tenore litterarum patencium et certificacionem infrascriptum*': Still of the tenor of the letters patent and certificate underwritten.

⁶⁷ 'DCCCClvijj tonnes': 958 tons.

⁶⁸ 'CCCLxxxxvijj tonnes': 398 tons.

⁶⁹ 'Dlx tonnes': 560 tons.

abovenamed the xijth daye of Apryll Anno *predicto*⁷⁰ **John Syllye** of S^t Georges in the countie of Somerset *masters* mate of the abovesaide shippe called the Prymerose of Brystoll beinge sworne saieth that the same shippe came to the porte of Brystoll from Burdeux in ~ November laste laden with Gascoigne wyne trayne and rosonne and pitche⁷¹ beinge of the portage of lxxx tonnes And that there was dischargd in the saide porte at her saide Arryvall oute of her lv tonnes of wyne and lx cakes of rosonne and pitche and for the ~ trayne he knoweth not the quantytie thereof And further he saieth that in her viage from Rochell⁷² in February laste she arryved at ~ Bristoll laden with Sibias wyne⁷³ and salte but the quantytie he dothe not nowe remember / **In** the Customer and Comptrollers bookes is entred but xxiiij tonnes pipe hogeshead⁷⁴ wyne and the reste of her burthen in trayne and rosome **John Lytche** of Torbaye in the ~ Countie of Devon *master* of the abovesaide shippe called the George of ~ Absome beinge also sworne saieth that the saide shippe did arryve at Brystoll in February laste laden with gascoyne wyne heringe and hake and that she dischargd at Brystoll lv tonnes of wyne and of the heringes and hake he knoweth not the certentie and to his

[*new membrane*]⁷⁵

knowledge no parte of the same wyne weare dyschargd any where but at Brystoll./ In the Customer and Comptrollers bookes be entred but xxiiij tonnes of wyne and the reste in fyshe / **Deposycyon** of a witnesse taken at Brystoll before us the Commyssioners abovesaide the xxvijth of Aprill Anno *Predicto*. / **William Warren** of Walton in the Countie of Somerset boteswayne of the abovesaid shippe called the Grace of god ~ sworne also saieth that in the vyage from Burdeux in November the same shippe came to Bristoll laden with Gascoyne wyne ode and yron⁷⁶ and was there dischargd of Cj tonnes of wyne fyve tonnes of ode and three tonnes of yron / And further saieth that in the same shippe were neither trayne ne rasomme but onely a cake of rasomme wayeing *dimidium C* weight⁷⁷ for the provysyon of the shippe / And that the same shippe called the grace of god is of the burthen of Cx tonnes or thereabouts. **In** the Customer and Comptrollers bookes be entered but onely xl tonnes and the reste in trayne and yron ./ Anthony Sandbancke maior, George Norton, Robert Brayn /

⁷⁰ 'Anno *predicto*': the said year.

⁷¹ 'Gascoigne wyne trayne and rosonne and pitche': Gascon wines, train [oil], rosin and pitch.

⁷² 'Rochell': La Rochelle.

⁷³ 'Sibias wyne'. Possibly a type of wine produced in or around La Rochelle.

⁷⁴ 'xxiiij tonnes pipe hogeshead': 24.75 tuns.

⁷⁵ Headed 'Adhuc de tenore *litterarum patencium* et certificacionem incipiente in ventre rotuli': Still of the tenor of the letters patent and certificate beginning in the front of rotulet (-). The rotulet number has not been entered.

⁷⁶ 'ode and yron': woad and iron.

⁷⁷ 'dimidium C weight': half-a-hundredweight, i.e. 60 lbs., if the long hundred (120) is meant.